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Evaluation: Unable to determine

MEMORANDUM FOR: SR Reports

Date of INFO: January 1958

FROM

[
SR/3-PP
]

Date: 4 March 1958

SUBJECT

: Polish Professor attending conference in Munich

SOURCE

: Contract Agent

On 31 January 1958 Subject, an Orientalist and more specifically an Arabist, who attended the Congress of Orientalists (International) which took place in September 1957 in Munich, was in contact with one of our agents. Subject had recently travelled to London, Paris, Naples and Prague lecturing on the topic "Arabic Sources to History of Eastern Europe X-XIII Century". He was accompanied by his wife who is a doctor of ethnography working at the Institute of Material Culture of the Cracow Academy of Science. She works specifically on the ethnography of the Lemkiv region of the Ukraine. The following information was obtained by means of question and answer:

1. According to the wife who was working there in the summer of 1957, the inhabitants of the Ukrainian town Komancha near Sanok were not deported, and even the Ukrainian priest remained. The inhabitants of other villages were deported, en masse, leaving only four or five Ukrainian families. The Carpathian San area, which is part of Boykiv region was entirely deported.

2. Both the Professor and his wife admitted misunderstanding between Ukrainians and Poles in Western parts of Poland. A similar situation exists in the Lublin and L'vov regions. According to them "the third one" (Moscow) foments this trouble. In Cracow, Warsaw and East Prussia no trouble exists. There are no signs of chauvinism among the intelligentsia and students. In Cracow two young Ukrainians study Orientalism and are respected by Polish students; one is planning to emigrate to Canada where he has relatives. Both believe that deported Ukrainians would return to their homes.

3. According to the Professor, there are contacts between Ukrainian and Polish scientists in Lviv, Kiev and Kharkov; ~~and~~ Andriy Kovalewsky from Kharkov is one of the most competent Orientalists. (Kovalewsky kept silent during Stalin's rule.)

4. Efforts are being made at the present time to get the Institute of Ethnography of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences to join in the study of the culture of the whole Carpathian region. The Scientific Academies of Bratislava, Prague and Bucharest have agreed to participate.

5. Both the Professor and his wife expressed themselves for Ukrainian-Polish cooperation. The Professor said "We Poles have ceased to be romantic and have become realists. Therefore we have now some possibilities for freedom of expression and for independent scientific and research work. From this position of

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SECRET

-2-

realism we must come to an agreement with the Ukrainians, our closest neighbors." He further stated that the responsibility for the past bloodshed lies on both sides, that this is the opinion of all scientists in Cracow, and that his present meeting with Ukrainians is evidence of his attitude. The professor did not seek nor desire any contact with Polish emigres from Radio Free Europe.

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